The German Tribune

Hamburg, 12 October 1980
Nineteenth Year - No. 960 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

FDP comeback key to coalition victory

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's coalition of Social and Free Democrats was returned to office by an increased majority for a further four-year term in the general election on 5 October. The Free Democrats fared surprisingly well, while the Social Democrats held their own. The Christian Democrats failed in their bid to regain power in Bonn under the leadership of Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss.

There can be no doubt this time who won the Bonn general election. It was Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his Free Democrats.

Time and again the FDP has staged a recovery from what seemed almost certain oblivion. Only last May it took a hammering in the North-Rhine-Westphalian state assembly elections.

Pundits presaged an equally dismal showing in the October general election, yet the Free Democrats, junior partners in Helmut Schmidt's Bonn coalition, went on to achieve their second-best result ever.

The only time they fared better than their latest 10.6-per-cent share of the votes cast in a general election was in 1961 when they polled 12.8 per cent. This they did by capitalising on CDU/CSU mistakes.

This time too the FDP probably benefited first and foremost from the mistakes of others. CDU/CSU losses were little short of a landslide.

Christian Democrats can no longer deny that nominating Franz Josef Strauss as Shadow Chancellor was a bad mistake. He evidently sent droves of [illegible] voters straight into the FDP's arms.

Many may well have realised the CDU/CSU stood no chance of gaining a majority this time and settled in the circumstances to strengthen the hand of [illegible] Democrats as a counterweight [illegible] SPD in the ruling coalition.

IN THIS ISSUE

The election results were a clear decision. If there was any surprise it was the unambiguous nature of the outcome.

After 11 years in power the SPD-FDP coalition has emerged with an increased majority. The Opposition, not the ruling parties, have shown signs of wear and tear.

Their sole consolation, such as it is, is that the CDU/CSU will continue to be the largest parliamentary party in the Bundestag.

They are as far away from a return to power as ever, while Chancellor Schmidt can calmly anticipate another four years at the head of the Bonn government.

On the quiet Herr Schmidt may well be far from unhappy that SPD left-wingers should be kept in check by the reinforcement of the FDP's ranks.

If the results are read as any indication of an electoral mandate they can only be taken to mean that voters wanted neither a CDU/CSU government nor government by the SPD alone.

They cannot be taken as a favourable judgement on either of the major parties. Voters are not keen on government by a single party.

The FDP's showing, on the other hand, could well be taken as a pointer that voters continue to prefer a party-political system of checks and balances.

In this respect the electorate has shown political maturity again.

The Bonn coalition will be able to continue current policies. If there is to be any shift, then it will most likely be a case of the SPD having to pay greater heed to the newly confident FDP.

Among Free Democrats those who felt their best policy was to set themselves apart from the SPD are bound to feel vindicated.

The FDP owes its famous victory not to young left-wingers in the party but to Free Democrats more in the mould of Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff.

The election results ought certainly to make all the parties sit back and think. Social Democrats, for instance, would do well to consider that had it not been for Chancellor Schmidt's prestige they would probably have fared much worse than in 1976.

In the end the SPD managed to hold its own, but only because Herr Schmidt consistently refused to yield to radical demands from the party ranks.

Assuming this lesson is learnt, it should lead to the Social Democrats practising moderation in future too.

The results present the CDU and CSU with most serious difficulties even though they may, in joint harness, have remained the largest parliamentary party in Bonn.

But they must surely realise that the markedly conservative, not to say reactionary, approach favoured by Herr Strauss does not pay.

Sooner or later they are going to have to find a new figurehead. There is no hurry, but if the Opposition parties are to stand a better chance next time round they will have to adopt a new approach and not just a change of name at the top.

For Bonn's position in the world at

Continued on page 4

How the parties polled

	1980		1976		1972	
	%age	seats*	%age	seats*	%age	seats*
SPD	42.9	218	42.6	214	45.8	230
CDU/CSU	44.5	226	48.6	243	44.9	225
FDP	10.6	53	7.9	39	8.4	41
Green	1.5	–	–	–	–	–
Others	0.5	–	0.6	–	0.6	–

*Figures do not include the 22 West Berlin representatives.

Faces of triumph: Chancellor for another term, Helmut Schmidt, after the election, with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, leader of the Free Democrats, who managed to increase their crucial share of the vote from 7.9 to 10.6 per cent. (Photo: dpa)

Result a win for political centre

The outcome of the election is no more and no less than a stabilisation of the political middle of the road in Germany.

It is a clear repudiation of the bid to switch to the ultra-conservative policies represented in pristine purity by Herr Strauss's Bavarian CSU.

The Free Democrats emerged triumphant from a campaign that ended in head-on confrontation between Herr Schmidt and Herr Strauss.

In the past the FDP tended to be ignored when voters felt it had to be a straight choice between the two major parties.

This time the Free Democrats were preferred by many, such as Christian Democrats who did not relish the prospect of Herr Strauss as Chancellor and others who did not altogether trust the Social Democrats.

Not even the respect Helmut Schmidt enjoys both in SPD ranks and among those of his party-political opponents proved enough to outweigh scepticism about certain trends in his party.

Delighted though the FDP may be with the result, it need not be too high-spirited. All it need mean is an overwhelming vote of confidence in the party's leader, Foreign Minister Genscher.

The useful majority the coalition now enjoys in the Bundestag need not mean that governing is going to prove any easier, especially for the Chancellor.

In the coalition, as in the Opposition, differences of opinion are more likely to come to the fore than hitherto.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 6 October 1980)

■ **WORLD AFFAIRS**

Challenge to North over news dissemination

Major news agencies in the northern hemisphere monopolise the flow of information, complain Third World countries.

They say that as a result, there is a flow of information from the developed to the developing countries. But news from the Third World seldom reached the industrialised countries.

A demand by the developing countries for a new international information order is a main item on the agenda of talks in Belgrade in which the future of Unesco, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, is being debated.

More than 2,500 delegates from 152 countries are involved.

Many developing countries lack a journalistic infrastructure and are thus unable to maintain correspondents of their own in the northern hemisphere.

Often they are not even in a position to cover events in their own or neighbouring countries and learn what is going on from their own point of view.

In 1975, for instance, when Surinam gained independence from Holland, press coverage all over Latin America relied entirely on North American agency reports.

"Surinam", wrote Chilean media specialist Fernando Reyes Matta, "laid bare the sub-continent's inability to see and interpret even itself."

Many Third World countries are even more heavily dependent on the industrialised world for TV programmes than they are for press coverage.

Argentina, for instance, imports 20 per cent of its TV programmes. Colombia imports 34 and Guatemala 84 per cent, nearly all from the United States.

Argentina has an illiteracy rate of 7.4 per cent, Colombia 19 and Guatemala over 50 per cent.

The often devastating repercussions of this head-on clash between two cultures for those who live in the "less developed" of the two have rightly been lamented.

So the aim of a new information order ought surely to be to enable the Third World to train enough journalists and to provide them with the technical means of going about their work.

In this way they would be able to report on both their own countries and the industrialised world in their own media and from their own point of view.

But the mere idea of an information order has made many observers sit up and take notice. A number of developing countries evidently want not only to purvey their view of the world in their own media but also to bring under official control the views others voice on the Third World.

The West has objected in the strongest terms to any such plans, and its viewpoint may be summarised as follows: —

It advocates and supports the development of media systems in the Third World but objects to any attempt to limit the freedom of press coverage by means of an international information order.

Western countries are even more dead set against the idea now the Soviet Union has sided with the Third World. Moscow advocates an information order by the terms of which "objective" coverage is limited to what suits the country about which a journalist is reporting.

Many developing countries are attracted by this idea, either being ruled by dictators or represented by state-run news agencies.

Russia and many Third World countries object to "subjective" coverage. But since various views are possible on a given subject the "subjective" viewpoint is an indispensable feature of freedom of coverage.

Given the famine that periodically devastates Bangladesh a Bangladeshi journalist might well, for instance, regard Mr Ceausescu's Rumania as a progressive country because no-one goes hungry there.

Western correspondents, taking a different viewpoint, will doubtless stress entirely different aspects. Their respective views are both justified; neither ought to be suppressed by an international information order.

So if the Third World were merely to set about establishing an information system suitable to meet its needs the problem would soon be solved.

The complications arise because a number of developing countries seek to impose on the industrialised world their view of the problems.

The industrialised countries, on the other hand, are anxious not to forgo the possibility of marketing their media output overseas, especially via satellite TV networks.

A further problem is that in the West the media mainly deal with facts and analyse events, whereas the Third World regards the media as a means of promoting social and national development.

An item on the Unesco agenda in Belgrade is the McBride Report, compiled by a commission chaired by Irish Nobel laureate Sean McBride.

The McBride Commission spent years probing the world's communications problems and its report contains ample material. But it is reluctant to make recommendations.

As a result it has given rise to many controversies without, by any stretch of the imagination, paving the way for compromise. A criticism levelled at the report in the West is that it bolsters the inclination of a number of countries to blame anyone but themselves for problems for which they have only themselves to blame.

Yet there are signs of a departure from this attitude. Tanjug, the Yugoslav news agency, is coordinating a pool of about 70 Third World agencies.

Their collective aim is to report mainly on developing countries' problems.

Heiko Flottau

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 2 October 1980)

Recipe for Middle East peace

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has reiterated Bonn's readiness to back any international bid to arrive at a political settlement of the Gulf war between Iraq and Iran.

"In common with its fellow-members of the European Community the Federal government supports the maintenance of freedom of shipping in the Gulf as of vital importance to the entire international community", he said.

A lasting settlement of the conflict between the two countries must uphold the principle of non-intervention in other countries' home affairs and of both countries' territorial integrity.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 1 October 1980)

Disarmament conference 'aim in Madrid'

One of the main aims of the Helsinki review conference in Madrid next month should be to convene a European disarmament conference.

This, Bonn considers, would be a basis for all other confidence-building measures.

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has criss-crossed the country canvassing for the Madrid conference.

Bonn considers it the most important international political gathering since the 1975 Helsinki conference on security and cooperation in Europe.

It has good reason for setting fresh store by Madrid. The principles of security and cooperation in Europe as framed at Helsinki have often been given short shrift in the day-to-day conduct of political affairs.

The process of detente, in which Bonn played an active role from the start, has since 1975 been subjected to one encumbrance after another. After the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan it even ground to a halt.

That is why Herr Genscher, addressing the International Conference on Soviet and East European Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, warned:

"Bridging the divide that runs through Europe is a task that will take generations. It must be persevered with even though chillier East-West ties may make it more difficult. The concept drawn up at Helsinki must be able to survive setbacks."

There can be no mistaking the way Herr Genscher has lately stressed the importance of economic cooperation as a means of reducing political conflict.

"The opportunities of mutually beneficial economic cooperation between East and West have not yet been fully exploited", he told the Garmisch gathering.

In a written answer to a Bundestag question tabled by the Social and Free Democrats the Bonn government this month listed the reasons why East bloc trade ties are still hamstrung despite signs of progress.

In most East bloc countries working conditions for Western businessmen continue to be unsatisfactory. There has been no elimination of the difficulties they encounter in forging links with individual works.

There has been no progress worth mentioning in economic and trade information since the Helsinki accords, then. Herr Genscher now considers the importance of economic cooperation for CSCE purposes as follows:

"Economic ties promote contacts between individuals and are in the interest of greater transparency, so they also exercise an influence on political ties."

Economic interdependence may not eliminate ideological, political differences between East and West, but it does reinforce interest in maintaining cooperation, thereby raising higher the conflict readiness threshold.

"Lasting and mutually advantageous relations can only be established with an economically stable partner", Herr Genscher said.

So the serious economic challenges both East and West face in the 80s, especially in the energy sector, deserve detailed debate in Madrid.

Bonn would not, at the same time, like to be misunderstood on account of the importance it attaches to economic cooperation.

The three CSCE mainstays, military, economic and humanitarian measures to further detente and cooperation, are intended to remain a single political unit and to be treated as equally important features of the Helsinki accords.

Hans Jörg Sottek

(Handelsblatt, 2 October 1980)

Salt 3 opens East-West channels

Resumption of Salt 3 talks in Geneva has reopened a major channel of East-West cooperation that seemed to have been closed for some time after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

But the connecting links between the superpowers are extremely slender until preliminary talks lead to detailed negotiations.

Medium-range missiles in Europe are not the only item on the agenda. Once Salt 2 is ratified talks on qualitative limitation in the intercontinental weapons are due to be held.

This is where the problems start, since Washington is not yet ready to declare its newly developed MX option a negotiable topic.

Until it does so the Kremlin is fairly certain not to agree to negotiate on its SS-20 missiles aimed at European targets, which is what the West wants to discuss at Geneva.

Europe is currently pressing ahead much more keenly than the United States with its bid to open up arms control talks.

President Carter's medium-range missiles scheduled for stationing in Europe by 1983 ensure him a strategic leverage he is unlikely to declare negotiable without good reason.

So the 1983 deadline, the date by which Nato was to station Pershing and Cruise missiles in Europe failing substantial progress at the conference table, looks like going by the board.

Klaus-Ulrich Moeller

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 27 September 1980)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Simon Burnett. — Distribution Manager Georgine Picone.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH. 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1. Telex: 02-14733.

Advertising rates list No. 13 — Annual subscription DM 35.

Printed by Druck- und Verlagshaus Friedrich Pörtner, Bremen-Blumenthal. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc, 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes quarterly supplements featuring articles selected from German periodicals.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper between asterisks, above your address.

STATE SECURITY

Fear of left-wing extremism cloaks danger from right

Hannoversche Allgemeine

It has been known ever since the turbulent years of the Weimar Republic that extremists spur each other into action.

In Turkey and Italy — to mention just two examples — left and right extremists have been fighting it out for years.

It might sound harsh, but it would be incomprehensible if the leftists who are running amok against our democratic society had not found emulators on the right wing.

Since the attacks in Hamburg and Munich, few now fail to realise the atrocities of which right extremists are capable.

The paramilitary groups on the right periphery of our society have been known to the security forces for years. Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum has warned of them for years. And only last January he banned the paramilitary Sport Group Hoffmann.

There can be no doubt as to the danger of this organisation. Even if the geology student Gundolf Köhler should have carried out the Munich bomb attack off his own bat, it can be taken for granted that he was guided by the evil spirit of the Hoffmann group.

The individual citizen has paid little attention to these warnings because the atrocities by the left extremists have dulled his awareness of the danger from the right.

Worse still: the right benefited from the fact that all attention was concentrated on extremism from the left, and used this as a cloak under which to operate in relative safety.

Thus the widespread revulsion of our society towards the left extremism served as a compost on which the rightist society could flourish.

It can serve as an excuse for the public's lack of alertness to the danger from the right that our security forces themselves have frequently followed up their warnings on the threat from that quarter by minimising it in the same breath.

The standard formula has always been that neither the left nor the right can seriously jeopardise our democratic system.

Though essentially correct, it is also obvious that the right is not only capable of violence but also determined to use it to a much greater extent than generally assumed.

Everybody was relieved a few years ago when the neo-Nazi NPD fizzled out after briefly flaring up.

But as the NPD kept shrinking, the readiness of neo—Nazi groupings to engage in underground work increased.

The techniques they use are frequently those adopted from the leftists, and like the left they maintain close contact with others of their ilk abroad.

But, unlike the leftists, who have hitherto selectively hit the representatives of our democracy, their opposite numbers on the right vent their hatred by a rampage of pointless destruction.

The atrocities of Munich and Bologna both bear the marks of indiscriminate violence.

Friedrich Nietzsche once wrote that it is not only the commonsense of milleniums but also the madness that breaks out in us.

The two attacks were not directed against a political opponent but against people who had nothing whatsoever to do with the terrorist's issues.

Such acts of madness as a step towards an absolute Führer state as propagated by Karl-Heinz Hoffmann should have alerted all our democratic politicians.

But this is not so. Franz Josef Strauss has tried to make campaign hay even out of the Munich atrocity.

There might be much blame that can be heaped on the shoulders of Herr Baum. But nobody can say that he did not warn of right extremism.

Moreover, was it not the CDU/CSU politicians who repeatedly accused the Interior Minister of looking at the right extremists through a magnifying glass and so distorting the relative importance of the two extremist groupings?

But big words are also far from a suitable weapon in fighting terrorism. A little while ago Strauss said that if he had anything to say he would clean up so thoroughly that not a single one of these bandits would open his trap again.

Though this is no violence in itself, it is the speech of violence that breeds violence. The defence against terrorism is one subject where the democrats of the nation should speak with one voice. It is also the most unsuitable subject with which to denigrate the political opponent. Since Munich we have known that the danger from extremism cannot be measured in terms of which of the two groupings is numerically the stronger.

Ludwig Harms

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 30 September 1980).

Relatives of the dead and dying at the memorial service for the victims of the Munich Oktoberfest bomb blast (Photo: Sven Simon)

Lack of evidence: suspect freed

Suspicion was not enough to hold the arrested neo-Nazis, and their leader, Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, is once more free.

Our judiciary could not take into account the general public outrage but had to act solely by the letter of the law.

Those who are angered by this, among them CSU Secretary-General Stoiber, only demonstrate a lack of respect for the law.

The release of Hoffmann says nothing about his portion of blame, just as the evidence to the effect that Gundolf Köhler acted alone is no reason to minimise the danger of right extremism.

Terrorists don't come straight from ... the seed of violence needs its ... earth if it is to flourish. After ... Himmler and Eichmann killed no Jews with their own hands. The mixture of megalomania and misguided nationalism, of adventurism and hate of everything foreign, coupled with an unstable character, can act as a dangerous drug — a drug pushed by people like Hoffmann and disseminated by right extremist publications.

All this serves as a gathering point for addicts to take them on a trip, as happened before. The Nazi trip collapsed with a big bang in 1945.

Seen in this light, Köhler is more victim than perpetrator. But even so, had he lived, he would have had to stand trial and be convicted as a multiple murderer.

Meanwhile, the seducers can wash their hands of it all.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 30 September 1980)

Uncertainty over whether bomber acted alone

Handelsblatt

WIRTSCHAFTS- UND FINANZZEITUNG

The macabre contrast between the inability to mourn and the ability to make merry, the fact that respect for the 12 victims and the grief of their next-of-kin could not stop the merry-go-round, the ferris wheel and the roller coasters is frightening — especially in a city that calls itself "the metropolis with a heart."

The horror at this act of madness by a misguided young person is matched by the shock at the reaction to this atrocity.

At least on the day of the memorial service for the victims the merrymaking at the Oktoberfest and the electioneering did come to a standstill.

The police are still uncertain whether the 21-year-old geology student Gundolf Köhler acted alone when planting the bomb or in concert with other members of the banned paramilitary Sport Group Hoffmann.

The six members of the group who were arrested had to be released for lack of evidence.

Even so, the grenades and other explosives found in the home of one of the group's members show the criminal energy of these right-wing fanatics.

As incomprehensible as the Munich bloodbath might be, the security forces have long been aware of the trend to violence among the neo-Nazis.

As far back as last December, the Bonn Interior Ministry said that neo-Nazi publications and the weapons that were found indicated an increasing inclination to use violence.

The bomb attacks on homes for asylum seekers and the Munich atrocity bear out this assessment of the situation.

The interior ministers responsible, Bonn's Gerhart Baum and Bavaria's Gerold Tandler, will have to account for what the security forces under them have done to keep an eye on the Hoffmann gang since it was banned.

It would be worth appointing a parliamentary inquiry commission to find out whether it was wrong assessment of the situation, inadequate observation of the gang and lack of cooperation between individual security agencies that facilitated the bomb attack.

Even after the elections, all parties must have an interest in shedding light on possible omissions and drawing the necessary conclusions.

There can obviously be no defence against such acts of madness. But this means that efforts must be stepped up to prevent more young people from becoming misguided in this way.

Practical demonstration of values needed

Nut cases can turn into a deadly danger. What is needed is politicians who in their own lives demonstrate the value of our democracy, who can be taken as examples. Parents and schools also have a part to play here.

Nobody can possibly want the security of a police state. But all the talk about a state of snoopers puts the officers of our security forces into a dangerous twilight. Here Interior Minister Baum has occasionally failed to lend these officers his support.

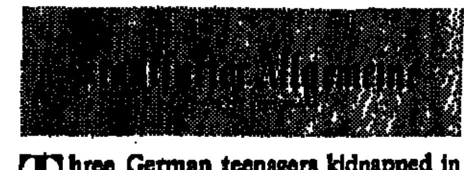
There is also no need for a public discussion with a repentent terrorist as a means of deterring others.

Rainer Nahrendorf

(Handelsblatt, 30 September 1980)

■ CRIME

68-day ordeal for abducted children



Three German teenagers kidnapped in north Italy in July have been released after 68 days.

They were released in good health on an abandoned farm near Berignone in the parish of Casole d'Elsa, Tuscany.

The release is not only relief for the people in both countries who suffered with the two families involved but also for the future of relations between Italians and Germans.

Fears on this latter score, in fact, still exist and will take some time to disappear.

The children, Susanne and Sabine Kronzucker (aged respectively 15 and 13) and their cousin, Martin Wächtler (15) were discovered by a forestry worker in the farmhouse on the abandoned farm about 8.30 am.

Susanne told him in broken Italian that the kidnappers had brought them to the farmhouse at 3am.

No one, neither police nor parents, was to be told before 11 am, the kidnappers had said.

The German consulate in Florence did not notify the parents until 10.20 am, when the children were having breakfast in the forester's house.

The three were kidnapped at midday on July 25. They were staying at a holiday house on a farm, but as they had been swimming in a local pool, were wearing only swimming clothing.

The old farmhouse in the parish of Barberino Val d'Elsa, belongs to Prince Corsini. The two families rented it fairly cheaply, as it is not luxurious.

Either three or four bandits grabbed the children from almost beneath the gaze of the parents. A third child, Petra Wächtler, 13, was not taken.

At the time, the father of the two girls, TV journalist Dieter Kronzucker, was inside.

Later he blamed himself for not seeing what happened. But this could hardly have prevented the kidnapping.

The kidnappers escaped via the nearby Siena-Florence motorway. Renate Kronzucker, mother of the two girls, appealed on Italian television to the kidnappers to give their children clothes.

Suspicion immediately fell on Sardinian shepherds, the Anonima Sequestri, members of a kidnapping group which has been operating in Tuscany for some years. Many of the suspects are known to the police. Some are on the run, others are in prison —, but have good contacts to accomplices outside.

These Sardinian shepherds seem to have brought the undesirable customs of their homeland to the Italian mainland. This is why they were not welcome everywhere in Tuscany. Last year Sardinian bandits kidnapped the English Schild family. The daughter, Annabele, was not released until nine months later.

The German public discovered that kidnappings are comparatively frequent in Italy. There have been almost 400 there in the past 20 years.

But the kidnapping of three German children in Italy shocked the German public.

And maybe the outcry scared the kidnappers a little.

Attempts to get the children released took more than two months. The Italian police did everything in their power. A number of arrest were made. The number of suspects had been reduced. It seemed that the police were closing in.

The public will never know by what methods the police hoped to get to the hard core of the gang.

It cannot be ruled out that the kidnappers reckoned that the risk of holding the children any longer was too great.

The prospects of finding the children by a manhunt in Tuscany seemed remote given the geography of the area with its endless hills, woods and deserted farms. However, some of the suspects interrogated may have given the police useful tips.

Throughout this time, investigations and negotiations between the family and the kidnappers were going on.



All smiles against after the release: from left, Martin Wächtler, Susanne Kronzucker and Sabine Kronzucker.

Dieter Kronzucker realised a few days after the kidnapping that too much publicity could be harmful and asked his colleagues in the media to keep quiet.

With hardly any exceptions, they complied. What German and Italian journalists found out in this period they kept to themselves.

Two weeks ago, the parents received two letters which indicated that the kidnappers are Sardinian separatists with considerable resentments towards the people of Tuscany. It is possible however, that this was just a trick to make the crime appear politically motivated.

After receiving the letters, signed by Chaka II, the head of the gang, the families sent DM42,000 to a newspaper prison in Pistoia. They also had the following message read out over Italian radio: "The financial aid given to the prison newspaper in Pistoia yesterday is a gift from Chaka."

This does not seem to have been the only payment to the kidnappers.

In the days before the release, there were rumours that a German bank had transferred DM11m to Herr Kronzucker in Tuscany.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 October 1980)

Too early to say if victims are unscathed

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

The three children were cheerful and looked healthy, said an eye-witness describing the happy reunion between the Wächtler and Kronzucker families and their children.

The sentences say a lot and a little at the same time.

A lot because the kidnapping drama, which lasted over two months, did have a happy ending despite some pessimistic predictions.

A little because it is more than an open question whether the three children have really come through the experience unscathed.

Many previous kidnappings prove that scepticism is, unfortunately, called for here.

Many victims suffered from their experiences that the psychological after-effects lasted for years. This was the case with the victims of the Mogadishu hijacking and the Molucca hostage drama in the Netherlands.

Sometimes, these effects do not emerge until years after the event — in the form of nightmares and nervous disorders.

This is a point that should be borne in mind when talking about the happy ending of the kidnapping.

The children and their parents deserve our deep sympathy. They must have suffered many hours of despair as a result of this act, which came like a bolt out of the blue in the midst of their holiday in beautiful Tuscany. Their sufferings made us forget for a while major world political events.

After the release of the children, these political events — the strikes in Poland, the war between Iran and Iraq, the dispute about the bomb attack in Munich — will again command our attention.

But the Kronzucker case should make us pause.

It is something that could happen to any one of us.

Friedhelm Fiedler

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 2 October 1980)

An end to the kidnappings not likely

Lübecker Nachrichten

A whole country was appalled ... relief and joy dominate.

Between these two reactions ... were 68 painful days of waiting for families and the public

Now that the children have been released, many may be inclined to ... "all's well that ends well".

But of course we still have to ... the state of a world in which such spectacular crimes are increasingly rife.

The Munich bomb attack has ... once again that extremist and ... violence is not restricted to one part ... the world.

The reactions of politicians to the happy ending of the kidnapping in ... underline how close to the bone the case went.

Quite rightly the circumspection ... which the families waited for ... months for a solution has been emphasised and praised.

Relief at the happy ending of the Kronzucker case should not blind us ... the fact that the potential endangering ... human life by assassinations and kidnapping in Italy will no doubt continue.

German children ... likely target

There seem, after all, to be indications that Sardinian bandits aim to concentrate on kidnapping German children ... part of their struggle for Sardinian ... predictions.

This could be a bluff aimed at Italian tourism.

But it could also be more ...

At any rate, the kidnapping of the three children has brought home to ... Germans that we too are potential victims of a form of criminality which ... no doubt, continue to make the ... lines.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 2 October 1980)

LABOUR

Metalworkers' leader hits at 'dogmatism'

Eugen Loderer's speech at the IG Metall (Metal Workers' Union) conference was a commitment to trade union pragmatism and a clear rejection of theoretical and ideological dogmatism.

It was a radical "no" to "theoretical daydreams" and "academic dogmas of salvation."

Union leader Loderer has never before underlined the distance between him and his intellectual critics as emphatically as this.

His speech was a commitment to the old school of trade union policies, in which moderate reforms are the central plank.

He proposed a code of behaviour for large companies. Here he was obviously flying a kite. Nonetheless employers should not simply dismiss the proposal – although no major company is likely to commit itself to not sacking large numbers of workers should the need arise.

If one takes the efforts of AEG boss Heinz Dürr as an example, we can see that there are employers who put the guarantee of jobs at the top of their list of company policies. So despite all the scepticism Eugen Loderer's proposals are not all that bizarre.

As for internal union policies, Loderer made it plain that he means to strengthen the leadership. His aim is to have contacts with the employers at the highest levels and to have the entire union behind him. Loderer never tires of stressing that he is willing to hold binding talks. And he would like to see his code of behaviour included in such talks. But this is also the snag. Loderer, whose self-confidence has grown in the labour disputes of the past three years and who was re-elected almost unanimously, is moving towards rigorous trade union centralism.

Of course he said that trade union bodies should not merely become associations of yes-men. But on the other hand he now tends to seek solutions for problems in central committees with the employers, to impose wage agreements in union districts by means of so-called pilot procedures and impose his will on the rank and file.

This seems to be just what many members want.

Many delegates from Baden-Württemberg discovered this to their cost. At the union conference three years ago, these delegates put their stamp on the course of the whole conference and gained majorities for resolutions against the union executive.

This time the boot was on the other foot and it was they who were defeated. And when they asked how binding the conference resolutions on the DGB manifesto were, they were out on their own. District boss Franz Steinkühler and his supporters will have to look critically at their situation.

The fact is that they seem to be isolated. It would be disastrous if this were so, and it would be worse if the Stuttgart district were to be accused of forming factions. This would be unjust because Baden-Württemberg — as Loderer himself said — has achieved major successes for the union in the past.

Many Baden-Württemberg delegates wish, quite justifiably, to clarify positions. This is where they differ from many of their colleagues. They will not now go home with their heads hanging.

On future wage policy they have the support of the resolution commission and thus probably of a majority. This means they will have a major say in the most important aspect of union policy.

Jens Peter Eichmeier

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 26 September 1980)

Dissent on wage agreements

A large minority of metal workers do not accept that regional negotiating committees should simply accept wage agreements worked out by the central union.

A vote at the IG Metall conference in Berlin which amounted to a clash between democratisation on the one hand and centrism on the other was won by the union executive by 314 votes to 247, a margin of 67.

The executive took the centrist line. But the voting figures mean that the losing side cannot be described as a marginal minority.

It is a vote which should give the executive food for thought.

One thing the vote underlined was that the battle-hardened delegates from Stuttgart are not as isolated as at first seemed.

Stuttgart district leader Franz Steinkühler got the second-loudest applause of the conference for his stance on this question. (The loudest applause of all went of Helmut Schmidt, who opened the conference.)

The problem is therefore deeper than any mere rivalries between union districts.

The union executive bases its claim to a sole right of representation on the centralisation of the employers.

However, the difference between trade unions and employers' associations is that the union leadership is democratically elected and they have to answer for their actions. Complaints that everything ... be much more difficult do not create a climate of trust.

(... Rundschau, 27 September 1980)



At the IG Metall conference in Berlin: the leader, Eugen Loderer (left) who was re-elected, and his deputy, Hans Mayer. (Photo: dpa)

Union chief rejects call for state steel takeover

The leader of the metalworkers' union (IG Metall) has rejected a call for the steel industry to be nationalised.

Eugen Loderer, in his closing speech at the union conference in Berlin, said that a change of ownership would not solve the problems of the industry.

Some delegates had argued that the industry should be freed from enonomic pressures.

One delegate said that capitalism and democracy got on like fire and water.

Loderer was re-elected leader with a larger majority than anticipated.

Loderer, 60, and, like the other executive candidates unopposed, got 495 out of 552 votes — 89.7 per cent; 33 delegates voted against him and 24 abstained.

At the last union conference, Loderer got 88.7 per cent. Many union delegates said then that he got such a good result because it was the last time he was standing.

Deputy leader Hans Mayer got 489 out of 557 votes; 44 delegates voted against him and 24 abstained. This meant he had the support of 87.5 per cent of the delegates as against 82.6 per cent three years ago.

In his closing speech, Loderer defended his union's wage negotiating policy against critism from delegates by pointing to the successes achieved in the past three years in wage negotiations — in difficult political and economic circumstances.

He listed these successes as: six weeks minimum annual holiday for all metal workers; reduction of the working week to below 40 hours in some sectors; raising of wages and salaries to meet the higher cost of living; and successes in the struggle against lockouts.

Loderer stressed that the struggle to maintain the metal industry co-determination model was not to "defend the fat livings of union officials but the rights of workers."

He repeated that the declared aim of the union was to extend the metal industry co-determination model to all of industry.

He said that the executive was contemplating action to back these demands.

The nature and extent of the action would depend on the response of the politicians. The union would await with interest what was said on co-determination after the Bundestag election.

November of this year would be the 30th anniversary of the Rhine and Ruhr metal workers' vote to strike to support metal industry co-determination.

Loderer promised that the West German trade unions would not let this anniversary pass without showing their determination to defend the metal industry co-determination model and to have it extended to industry as a whole.

Some delegates criticised the executive for accepting the wage rises in one district for the union as a whole.

They also accused it of inadequate information and lack of democratic coordination in regional wage negotiations.

Another criticism was that district representatives often merely had a rubber-stamping function and that the wage commission was thus degraded into a mere acclamation machine.

The union executive made no mention of the controversy on wage negotiating policy in their report.

Nor did they mention the discussion on supplementary pay increases in the event of unexpectedly high increases in the cost of living.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25 September 1980)

Employers' spokesman warns of 'rationalisation dangers'

The human being must be the central concern of industry, according to the chief of an employers' association.

Dr Dieter Kirchner, head of the Confederation of Iron and Steel Industry Employers, said that rationalisation against people brought no real progress.

"What is technologically feasible must not be the criterion," he said at a meeting in Cologne.

He then assured the meeting that this was not mere polite waffle.

His organisation's legal adviser, as if to underline the sincerity of these protestations, insisted that employees and their unions had no legal right of co-decision on the introduction of new technology and that company should not prejudice this situation by internal agreements.

Increasing technology in production and, more recently, administration has led to dramatic change in many professions, to the disappearance of jobs and in some cases of entire professions.

To state this fact objectively is not to reject technological progress.

Employees and their representatives have long since realised that the economic health of this country depends on its competitiveness on world markets. And this competitiveness can only be maintained by high productivity, or modern methods of production.

There is no denying, however, that technological innovations often mean new strains on the employee. And what is hailed as progress is not always interpreted as such by those affected by it. Often it turns out to be a big step forward for company profits and little else.

The human being in the centre? Can only the employers decide where this centre is?

Hans-Willy Bein

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 September 1980)

Coalition victory

Continued from page 1

large the general election result is far from bad.

Fortune wrote in its last issue before the West German elections that only one of the three options was bad for America.

It would be alright if the current coalition were to continue in office or the CDU/CSU be returned to power but bad if the SPD were to govern alone. Other Western countries may well have shared this view.

Chancellor Schmidt enjoys a fund of goodwill abroad, and governments as a rule prefer things to stay as they are. So the outcome is sure to be welcomed.

Wolfgang Wagner

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 6 October 1980)

■ FINANCE

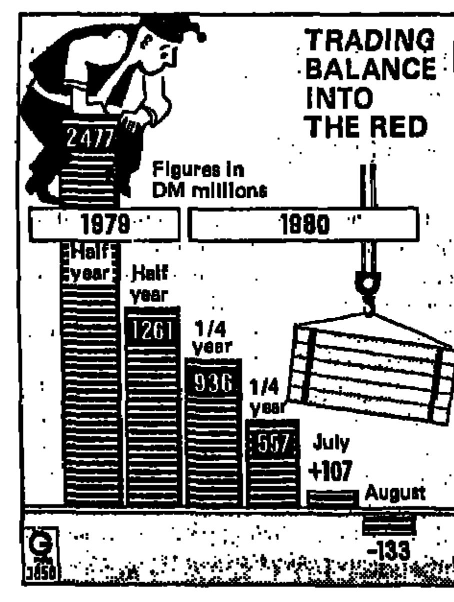
Latest trade figures confirm the continuing slide into the red

The *trade figures for August* have shown a deficit. This follows the trend that has thrown West Germany's balance of trade into the red for the first time in 15 years.

For years, there were surpluses, often big ones. But last year the story changed. The balance (which reflects not only foreign trade but also services and transfers) slipped into the red for the first time since the mid-1960s

Although the figures for August were expected, they still serve as a warning.

So far, German exports have always reliably earned the foreign exchange needed not only to pay for our ever-rising



Frankfurter Allgemeine

imports but also to finance travel abroad and to provide the currency for the transfers of money by foreign workers, for payments to international organisations (EEC), development aid and foreign investments abroad.

The balance of payments showed a deficit last year of more than DM10bn, expected to rise to between DM25bn and DM30bn this year.

This is largely due to the fact that our export surplus, which has showed a diminishing trend since *1974* when it stood at DM51bn, will now drop to less than DM10bn.

Naturally, this is primarily due to our *dramatically increased oil bill.*

In 1978 (when the quantity of oil imported was less than in 1973/74 and the deutschemark appreciated) we paid about DM32bn for crude and petrochemical products, i.e. not more than before the oil crisis. But last year, with the quantity of imported crude up, our oil bill stood at DM48bn.

The Bundesbank expects this year's oil bill to rise to DM65bn, thus accounting for 4.5 per cent of GNP.

This development is clearly reflected in the prices of imports. While overall imports in 1978 became cheaper than those of the previous year, 1979 imports *were an average 10 per cent higher than* those of 1978, rising to a plus of 18 per cent in the first six months of 1980.

But the high oil bill is not the only *explanation for our diminishing export* surplus. For one thing, the economy was still fairly buoyant in the first six months of the year, so there was considerable demand for foreign goods.

As a result, imports in the first eight months of this year outstripped those in the same period of 1979 by four per cent in real terms (nominally 20 per cent).

What is more important, however, is the structural change during the past ten years in the way in which we meet our domestic needs. In its latest monthly report, the Bundesbank pointed to an extremely heavy demand for foreign goods.

While imports of finished products amounted to a mere 25 per cent of overall imports in the mid-1960s, the proportion has now risen to 40 per cent.

There can be no mistaking the fact that this development reflects not only the gratifyingly progressive international division of labour — especially among the industrialised countries — but also the loss of competitiveness of German industry.

This is particularly evident in the fact that roughly 25 per cent of newly registered cars now come from Japan. In 1960, the proportion of Japanese cars was a mere 10 per cent.

The same applies to pocket ca[lcula]tors, *watches, cameras* and many [other] goods. Seventy per cent of all shoes [sold in] this country are foreign made; th[ree out] of four Germans wear foreign[-made] shirts. The ratio for trousers is tw[o out] of three. The same goes for [...] blouses.

The overall import quota now [ac]counts for about 30 per cent of GN[P as] opposed to 24 per cent two years ag[o].

Granted, this influx of imp[orted] goods has enabled the consumer t[o buy] more cheaply, thus representing a [...] ine division of labour progress in [the sense] of classical foreign trade theory ([John] Stewart Mill, David Ricardo). Bu[t this] essentially positive principle mu[st not] be *permitted* to go too far.

We must, above all, ensure the [ability] of our economy to pay for these i[mports] in the long run. This applies partic[ularly] to oil and other raw materials.

The competitiveness of German [goods] on international markets must n[ot be] left to chance or to the selfish [...] of certain groupings. To strengthe[n our] competitiveness, we shall not onl[y have] to concentrate on high technolog[y and] on maintaining our lead in this [...] but we must also try to remain c[ompe]titive with conventional products.

If progress and productivity [are] adequate to achieve this we shall b[e able to] sell cheaper than our competito[rs on] world markets. So far, however, w[e have] grown more and more expensive.

Germany's export business ca[n no] longer afford to relinquish intern[ational] *market* shares. As a result, we must [view] our oil bill and other commitme[nts as] an admonishment and an incentive.

The rising trade deficit shows th[at our] economic performance is in the bal[ance].

Lothar I[...]

(Frankfurter Allgemeine [Zeitung] für Deutschland, 26 Septembe[r 1980])

Institution or money machine for aid? The crucial question for the IMF

Will the International Monetary Fund remain the world's foremost institution for monetary cooperation among its 140 member nations. Or will it turn into a money machine for development aid?

This is the crux of the issue under debate in both the official and the unofficial sections of the joint annual conference of the World Bank and the IMF.

There is political and economic dynamite in such innocuous topics of discussion as "the role of the IMF in recycling oil money" or "action programme of the Group of 24".

The North-South confrontation has always dominated the scene at IMF conferences. But this has now become more pronounced than ever before.

The Special General Assembly of the UN, where the Third World *recently* demanded a restructuring of the international monetary system to be brought in line with its own ideas, is but a taste of things to come.

The IMF is expected to bridge between the 115bn dollar balance of payments surplus of Opec and the 50bn dollar deficit of the non-oil producing developing countries, which have been particularly hard hit by the oil price explosion.

The private banks alone cannot solve *this problem. And the nouveau riche* Opec countries have largely failed to meet their responsibilities. In fact, they do not even contribute much to the IMF, *thus forcing it to borrow* on private money markets and making it shoulder much of the risk.

It is not enough for the IMF to lend money to the Third World. In the long run, the problem can only be solved if the borrowers are prepared to make reforms at home. IMF loans have wisely been tied to special terms to force the recipients to do more towards self-help.

Still, it is undeniable that the IMF the way it was conceived after the war was not designed to cope with the huge deficits of the oil-price victims among the developing countries.

The major industrial countries which still dominate the Fund will have to *come to grips with this fact.*

But the IMF must not go too far in providing new credit facilities and in softening the terms. Moreover, its accommodation must be restricted to the period of the most dire emergency.

In the long run, it is of little use to the developing countries to opt for the easy way of financing their needs with freshly printed IMF money rather than embarking on reforms because this can only lead to more inflation and even more disastrous problems.

But the hope that the Western in*dustrial countries would speak with one* voice along these lines is rather vague, and there is the palpable danger that the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany will find little supp[ort for] their conservative attitudes.

The flexibility that so many n[ations] want the IMF to show in a bid to [prevent] the bankruptcy of developing cou[ntries] *is a time bomb.* In fact, the IMF i[s in] danger of turning into an inflation[ary ...]

This is further substantiated b[y the] diminishing resistance against the [...] *special drawing rights* for the trans[fer of] resources to developing countr[ies as] called for in the Action Programm[e of] the Group of 24. Here, too, the A[meri]cans and the Germans are pretty [much] loners in their rejection of it.

Even under the growing pressur[e of] the Third World it is unlikely th[at the] IMF will change its character fro[m one] day to the next. But there is a lon[g-term] component in the strategy of thos[e who] want to turn the Fund into an [instru]ment of development aid: the [Third] World's demand for more voting [rights] in the Fund and the World Bank [...] is clearly aimed at changing the [...] of decisions.

Even if this year's monetary co[nfer]ence of the World Bank and the IM[F is] under a shadow, it is neverthele[ss grati]fying that there seems to be [a com]promise in the *offing* over the [...] issue likely to prevent a polarisatio[n be]tween IMF and World Bank [...] weaken them through the [...] American or Arab funds.

Claus Dertin[ger]

(Die Welt, 25 Septemb[er 1980])

■ BUSINESS

Low-price competition forces textile industry to adjust its sights

The manufacture of textiles was long considered one of the safest busi[n]esses in post-war Europe.

In the Federal Republic of Germany [a]fter the *currency reform there first* [ca]me eating wave and then the cloth[in]g wave.

Reminisces Dr Konrad Neundörfer, of [t]he Textile Industry Association: "Once [t]he people had at last managed to fill their stomachs they bought something decent to wear."

The clothing wave engulfed the coun[tr]y, followed by the housing wave with its great demand for decorating textiles: a golden age for the textile business.

So this branch of industry grew, reaching its peak in *1957* with a payroll of 653,000.

But from then on things started dete[r]iorating, eventually raching today's posi[t]ion with a mere 300,000 employees.

Even so, Germany's textile industry is the largest in the EEC — not only in [t]erms of staff but also regarding the vo[l]ume of production.

The golden age has long been over, as [b]ome out by the balance sheets.

Like the clothing industry, its biggest [bu]yer, the textile industry was the first [br]anch of business to feel the pinch of [s]tructural change.

The worst years in middle 1970s

As far back as 1962 it became obvious [th]at the textile world was out of kilter. [Th]is is when the structural change [b]egan. But the worst years were 1974 [an]d 1975 when structural change and [re]cession combined.

Output diminished dramatically and it [s]eemed as if Germany's textile industry [wo]uld run out of steam. Low price com[pe]tition *from abroad was about to dis*[pla]ce German manufacturers from world [m]arkets.

The life buoy was thrown in the nick [of] time: it came in the form of all-out [ration]alisation — something which other [bran]ches of industry would do well to [foll]ow.

[Whi]le the net output per worker [amo]unted to a mere DM17,322 in 1962, [by] the end of 1976 the figure had risen [to] DM40,570.

[T]he dynamism of this branch of in[dus]try, which was primarily directed at [rais]ing the productivity level, was made [possi]ble by rapid technological progress.

[Un]der heavy pressure by foreign [comp]etition, German textile companies [were] quick to adopt technical innova[tions].

[In] fact, of the 29 branches of German [indus]try, only petrochemicals, chemicals [and w]ood processing have forged further [ahead] than textiles.

[A h]igh degree of investment was need[ed to] achieve this. From *1970 to 1979* [the t]extile industry put DM13bn into [replac]ement and modernisation in an ef[fort t]o replace the expensive production [factor] labour by the relatively cheap fac[tor ca]pital.

[Th]e most remarkable aspect of it all [is th]at the textile industry has managed [to d]o all this on its own steam and [witho]ut state subsidies.

[This] development is far from completed, as a look at most recent trends shows.

Hannoversche Allgemeine

It is no secret that the textile industry *did not expect the loss of market shares* it was faced with in the first months of this year. As a result, German textile makers failed to adjust their output to the diminished demand.

The first six months of this year saw a production increase of 3.5 per cent. But sales in terms of quantity rose minimally, and the 5 per cent increase to about DM17bn was attributable to price increases rather than quantity.

A development which the textile industry has been monitoring with much concern *continued this year:* German textile consumption, which in the first six months of this year rose by 3 per cent in quantity and 8 per cent in value, is increasingly met by foreign manufacturers.

Imports, inclusive of finished products (but not including raw materials) rose from January through June by 13 per cent to a record DM13bn. German textile exports during the same period rose by 9 per cent only to DM8.2bn.

This makes Germany not only the world's biggest textile exporter but also the biggest importer.

The textile business in this country now fears that a further drop in consumption *would go at the cost of domestic production.*

But Germany's textile makers are on the lookout for a silver lining. They expect *that the second half of the year* will bring fewer orders than the first six months and that output will drop; but they do not expect any dramatic deterioration.

The drop in employement will continue and will again amount to about 2 per cent this year.

The number of companies (employing more than 20) has also diminished since 1970 from 2,396 to 1,703.

The reason was by no means mergers but simply the fact that many companies were unequal to the tough competition — despite high productivity in the industry.

If the industry wanted to maintain its production with the technology of 1970 it would have to employ at least twice the present number of workers.

It would seem obvious to assume that profits should correspond to productivity and be extremely high. But this is not so. The tough cmpetition has made profits shrink disproportionately and has ultimately led to the shutdown of many companies.

The reason why more than one in four firms have gone out of business since 1970 is primarily the competition through imports from low wage countries which many firms were unable to weather despite rationalisation.

The average German *textile* worker earned an hourly wage of DM10.22 in July 1979 compared with DM1.52 in Hongkong.

Low wages can be countered by sophisticated technology, but there is very little that can be done against subsidies.

To make matters worse, there is not only the competition from developing countries but also from countries with state-controlled economies. Here, too, the prices are unrelated to cost. Moreover, since these governments have a foreign trade monopoly they have sealed themselves off against Western imports.

But European textile and clothing exports to other industrialised countries *have also met with tariff and other trade* barriers.

The world textile agreement seemed likely to bring a bit of order into this confused situation. The agreement applies to cotton, wool and man-made fibres. It permits selective import restrictions directed against specific supplier countries.

Export restrictions may be agreed upon but they must not reduce the existing volume of shipments. In other words, they may only restrict the growth rate.

But even this agreement, which expires in 1981, has not acted as a brake: German imports from low wage countries rose between 1970 and 1978 from DM1.3bn to DM5.9bn — up 341 per cent.

Germany's textile industry is not only fighting against world-wide competition *but also against competition within the* European Community. Among the sore points here are the distorting subsidies within the Community.

Some EEC governments are prepared to pay dearly to keep their textile and clothing industries alive.

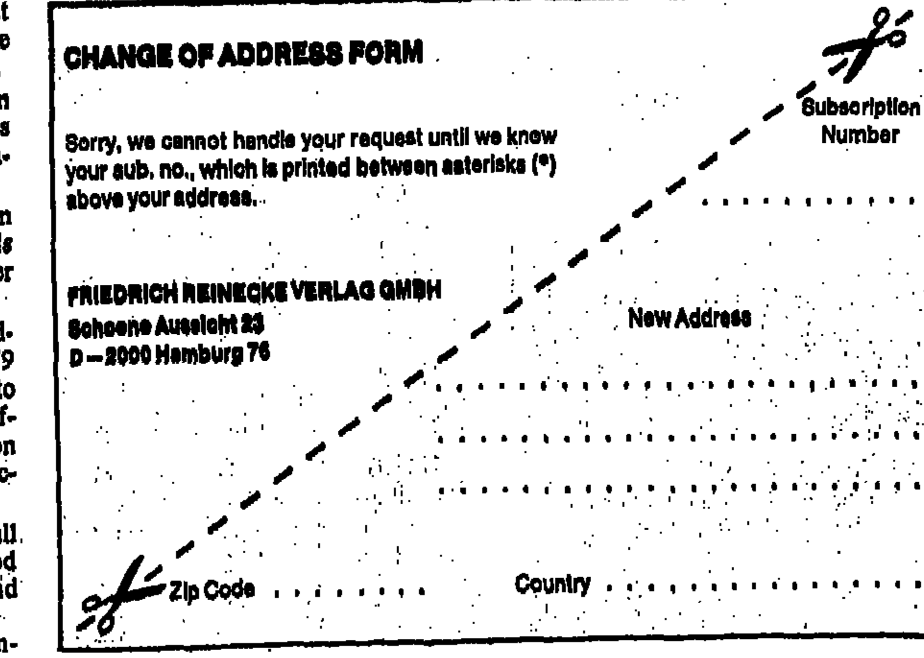
Germany's textile industry opposes any such government intervention at home. In fact, of the nine EEC governments, only Germany and Denmark provide no subsidies for their textile industries. Italy and France are the worst offenders.

In view of these problems, it is obvious that the manufacture of textiles is anything but a pushover in Germany — *neither now nor* in the years to come.

But there are also opportunities. Due to its high degree of technical knowhow, Germany can produce top quality goods which are in particular demand — especially in times of crisis.

Where cheap goods are concerned, low wage countries will continue to dominate world markets. Germany's industry must therefore concentrate on the discriminating buyer. *Peter Roller*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 September 1980)



Firms will go to the wall, bankers are warned

The Society of German Engineers (VDI) fears that many branches of business will lose as many as half of the existing medium-sized firms by 1985.

Delegates to a Berlin seminar organised by the VDI's Technology Centre, heard that this fear is based on the consequence of indecision and the difficulties in putting technical knowhow across. The situation is further aggravated by considerable changes in the cost structure brought on through the introduction of new technologies.

The root of the evil, the delegates, representing the banking community, were told, lies in the manner in which banks grant credit.

"Customers' deposits, which must obviously be protected, must be balanced against assets," the delegates were told.

But this principle must be reviewed because classical feasibility studies which *have hitherto served as a basis for planning* now no longer suffice.

Klaus Friebe, manager of the VDI Technology Centre, therefore called on the banks to review their present lending criteria, taking into account technological elements that are increasingly gaining in importance.

The *looming* end of a large part of our medium sized companies with payrolls between 20 and 200 can only be prevented if the banks train their staff to enable them to provide technical advice or, failing this, if they employ unbiased technical counsellors.

"Without the necessary capital provided by the banks, it will be almost impossible to realise the transfer of technology," Herr Friebe concluded.

Hans Karl Nolle of the City Savings Bank in Kassel *told the delegates* that the problems of medium sized firms must be viewed as a challenge to the business policy of banks.

Peter Philipps

(Die Welt, 19 September 1980)

TECHNOLOGY

Exhibition shows march of the marine revolution



The technology of the ship clearly fascinates not only landlubbers but also tried and tested seamen.

This is clear from reactions to the Ships, Machines and Marine Technology International Exhibition in Hamburg.

Exhibition halls contain pistons, pumps, hydraulics. Entire halls are filled with motors, gears and compressors. Electronic precision instruments, micro computers and ship computer systems have revolutionised seafaring in the past years and will continue to revolutionise it in future decades.

The ship of the future is thoroughly technologised — from telephones protected against spray to the remote control of propellers.

Of course between throbbing technology and high-powered electronics there is little room for the romance of the seven seas — little, but nonetheless some.

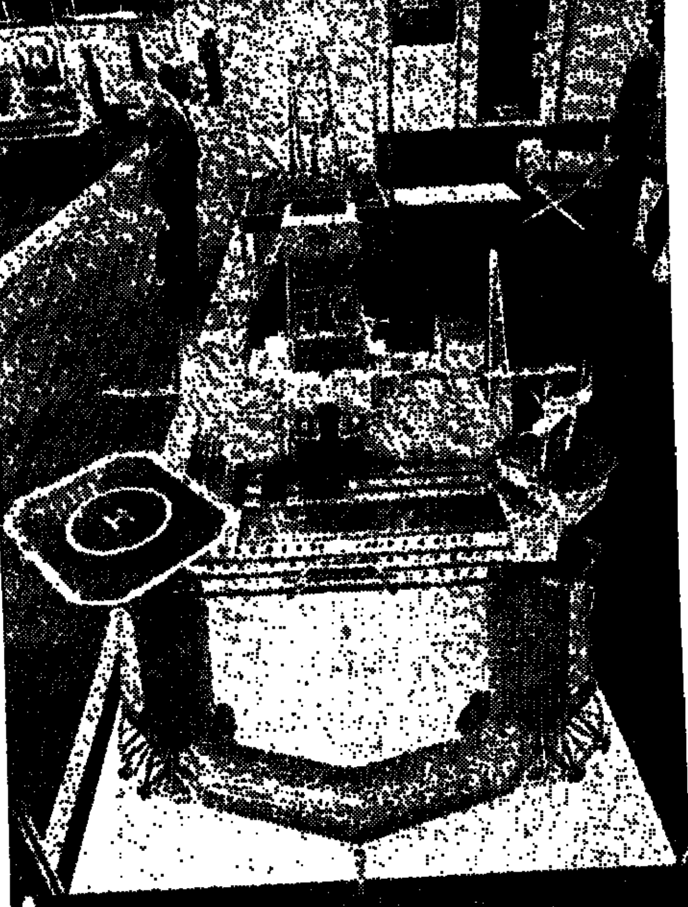
There are for example whales' teeth in glass cases, fine ships in bottles and measuring instruments from the glorious era of the windjammers. The teeth cost hundreds of marks and a Pollard London telescope made in 1878 costs just under DM1,000.

Proximity to nostalgic relics of seafaring can be attained more easily in the bars which form the centre of attraction of almost every stand. Old position lanterns, wooden oars and even a finely carved figurehead create a coxy ambience for bar regulars.

And of these there is no shortage, especially in the early hours of the morning. The air in the halls is extremely dry and a powerful cause of thirst.

The central theme of the exhibition, in which 700 companies from 25 countries took part, was shipbuilding and marine technology in the widest sense.

Particularly impressive was the model of a floatlift carrier from a German shipyard. This special ship for overseas transportation of barges, the floating containers of inland waterways, makes the harbour crane redundant, because the barges simply float in the belly of the ship. The ship can be flooded like a dock. Also fascinating were the models presenting marine technology, to to speak, in an aquarium. A Hamburg company used a large glass aquarium to demonstrate a kind of submarine excavator it has developed with backing from the Bonn Ministry of Research. The machine looks at first sight like something Jules Verne might have described but in fact it is a highly efficient digger of undersea trenches for cables and pipelines.



A model of the German oil platform RS 35 at the marine exhibition. (Photos: Bernd-Jürgen P. Fischer)

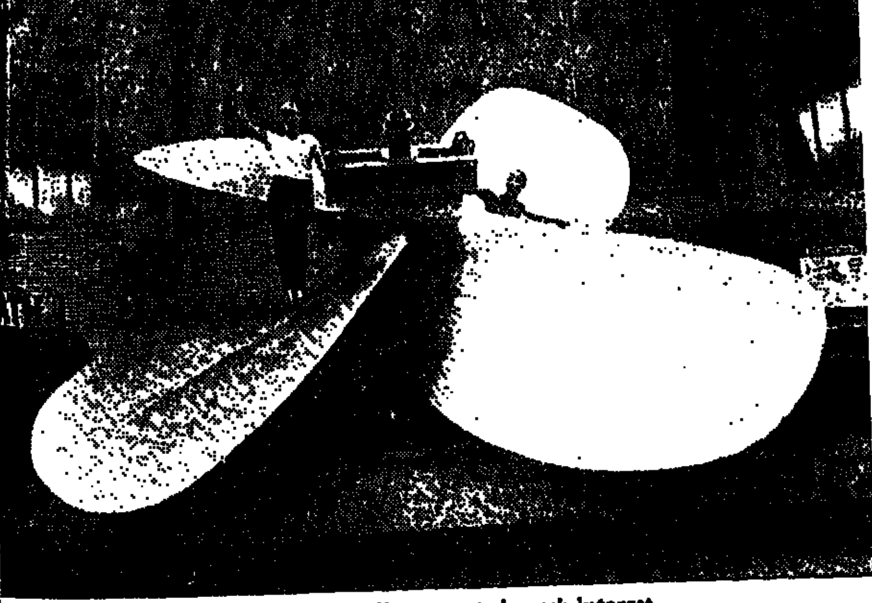
Another crowdpuller was working model of an oil rig which spellbound spectators as the hydraulic system raised the platform above sea-level.

The next hall contains a model tower in troubled water — a crane with a 150 metre underwater support, swaying back and forth with wind and water.

But despite all the technology, human beings are not forgotten. A film distributor is selling 16 millimetres cinema films for the long, boring hours at sea, another company specialises in cassettes.

The whole range of international cinema is available — "less sex than over on the Reeperbahn, though" I hear at the stand. Still, *Emmanuelle* is selling pretty well ... *Eberhard Krummheuer*

(Handelsblatt, 25 September 1980)



This giant propeller attracted much interest.

Probe coal and wind power, shipbuilders urged

West German shipyards should do more research into coal-fuelled and wind-powered ships, according to Heinz Ruhnaus, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Transport.

Speaking at the opening of the marine technology exhibition in Hamburg, he said that a merchant navy to meet the requirements of "our sea and foreign trade is indispensable."

The shipping industry in West Germany should not use regulations against unfair competition to protect itself against better foreign products.

High-wage countries must use modern technology. And this meant state subsidies.

The Hamburg exhibition boasts 495 direct exhibitors and 220 firms represented in other ways.

Hamburg Economics Senator Jürgen Steinert said it was the most comprehensive information exhibition of world shipping and marine technology.

Speaking of the shipping industry of developing countries he said: "Lamentations and calls for protectionist measures in this context are politically unacceptable."

He appealed to traditional shipbuilding countries gradually to reduce the level of subsidies given to the industry. He said the time for this was ripe in view of recent employment developments.

German shipyard suppliers look to the future not without optimism, according to their spokesman Ekkehard Neimke. He said this was because the supply industry depended on the number — and not the tonnage — of new ships ordered.

The German shipbuilding supply industry — more than 200 engineering and electronics companies — has an annual turnover between DM3bn and 3.5bn; 55 per cent of this is exports.

Dennis Stonebridge, director of a British consulting firm, was less optimistic. He said that a number of shipbuilders in Western Europe had gone out of business and others, having cut capacities and reduced investment, were probably less competitive now than before.

Stonebridge concluded: "Traditional shipbuilding firms generally produce ships at higher costs. Nonetheless, some of these shipyards in the past were able to maintain their position thanks of their technological lead."

He said he doubted if this would happen in the future, because many shipyards in the Third World were just as developed as those in Europe and Japan. He said that in Europe the high wage and material costs were out of all proportion to productivity and that shipbuilding would continue to decline in Europe for that reason.

Japan, he said, would be able to maintain its position. *D. F. Hertel*

(Die Welt, 24 September 1980)

House of the future: a fortress

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The house of the future will not only have sun collectors and energy saving heat pumps; it will also be equipped like a fortress.

The range of security devices now available mean that risks from the terrorist and the criminal can be mitigated.

What is now offered is total security systems, involving items from bullet-proof glass to highly complex burglar-alarms.

Experts at the International Security Fair in Essen reckoned that in future security systems would account for two to three per cent of the costs of building a house.

Taking DM300,000 as the price of a house, this would mean between DM6,000 and DM9,000. For this the houseowner will be able to choose from a range including burglar-proof doors and windows, alarm systems and other security systems.

Modern micro-electronics have revolutionised burglar alarms. There are, for example, systems which do not react to normal sounds in the house but only to the sound of a window pane being cut.

Other systems sound the alarm when doors and windows are opened. Radar devices which record movements, infra-red scanners which register body heat can also provide protection.

At the moment, the houseowner has to go to a lot of trouble to get together all the systems he needs to give him total security. But the security industry means to remedy this and in some towns there are already shops specialising in mechanical and electronic security systems for the home. *dpa*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 September 1980)

■ THE PERFORMING ARTS

Double premiere for 'Die Villa', the final unit of Dorst's tetralogy

Tankred Dorst's *Die Villa* is having simultaneous premieres. In Düsseldorf it is directed by Jaroslav Chundela and in Stuttgart by Günter Krämer.

Die Villa, described by Dorst as "a German story", is the last of four stories, which although they form a single unit, stand on their own.

The first was the comedy *Auf dem Chimborazo*, which has been performed often since its premiere in 1970.

The second part was *Dorothea Merz*, which was directed by Peter Beauvais for television. Dorst himself directed the third part, *Klaras Mutter*.

The tetralogy deals with the early post-war years in Germany

The villa of this latest play is close to the German-German border. The time: 1948. The events and the characters are fictional. Two of them, Tilmann and Heinrich, sons of Dorothea Merz, were also characters in the first play *Auf dem Chimborazo*.

Dorst, who was born in Thuringia, here includes and reflects on childhood memories of the Russian-occupied zone and this gives the play a strong, authentic atmosphere.

Dorst vividly remembers the villa built in the twenties and the mysterious murder of its owner, a Madame Bovary.

He makes this villa the centre of the action. The former property of industrialist Kurt Bergk, who tries to disguise his capitalist past by frantic efforts to conform to the new "socialist state" now serves as provisional rented accommodation for a motley group of people from different classes and with completely different points of view,



A scene from the Chundela version of 'Die Villa' being performed in Düsseldorf. (Photo: Lore Bermbach)

The version by the young Czech director, Chundela in the Kleines Haus in Düsseldorf, is notable for its precise observation of different characters and the subtle skill with which passionate love, aggressive hatred, longings, fears, conformist party intolerance, resignation are portrayed.

Dorst's story contains little action, few overt elements of tension. Dorst abstains from any kind of ideological identification. Nonetheless, Chundela succeeds in developing an increasingly tense inner drama from the emotional moods and responses of the characters.

The authenticity of the production is confirmed by the fact that the dramaturgic concept was jointly worked out by Dorst and Jürgen Fischer. Helmut Stürmer's stage set and Lioba Winterhalder's costumes capture well the feel of those post-war years when mere survival was the main aim.

The dilapidated splendour of the villa with the view from the terrace of wintry, leafless treetops and the elegant curve of the central staircase to the upper storey really and symbolically reflect the turning point between two eras.

This area becomes a stopover point for a group of very different individuals thrown together by circumstances.

The actors are excellent. Michael ... nig dominates as the neurotic ... owner Kurt whose clashes with ... Scharwenka, bastard son of a pro... and communist student, sometim... in physical violence. Robert's ... played with convincing temp... and angry arrogance by Markus ... lee.

He is furious about a society h... his mother, a former maidser... played by Hanna Seifert — ... submissive, curtseying attitude ... "her betters."

Actor Herzog tells the commu... former concentration camp inm... cialism for you means paint... have never seen you sad. You ... a weakness!" Klaus Herm play... cissistically obsessed actor ... reality as a drama, with the su... vanity of the experienced actor.

The central figure is Elsa, wh... her husband, the houseowner, ... go to the west but not with ... her secret lover, Christina ... presses with her fine, highly ... performance. Heinrich, played b... tian Berkel, is an illegal inter... veller, smuggling in black mark... from the west and helping peop... cape via the green frontier at n...

In her first conversation wi... rich she seems perhaps too di... taciturn. But she movingly de... increasing isolation, which end... taking an overdose of sleeping p...

Volker Martens plays the ... Heinrich's shy brother, Tilma... vainly tries to win Elsa's lov... Spiske, Dieter Prochnow, He... Gregor and Christa Vogel a... fine performers in a produ... which one can only congratula... — who was there — and the ... director Chundela.

The applause was powerful ... tained. Gerd ...

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 23 Septe...)

Indian performance sets the tone at Cologne Pantomime Festival

The opening performance of this year's Pantomime Festival at the Cologne Music Academy was by the Kerala Kalamandalam company, from India.

This group gave an authentic performance of the classical Indian dance play, *Kathakali*.

The high standards required at the festival, and reflected in this performance, are due to Milan Sladek.

This is Sladek's festival, as the audience at the opening ceremony acknowledged when his name was mentioned.

They knew how much Sladek has done to upgrade the status of mime both here and throughout the world.

Last year, Irshad Panjatam demonstrated the style of the powerful body and gesture language used in these plays,

unlike the gentler, more feminine style of the Bhatara Natyam, performed by T.N. Gayathri.

The artists of the Kerala dance academy brought to life the old tradition of Hindu dance plays which dates back to the 8th century B.C. Of course they only performed an excerpt from such a play, which lasts all night. But this was enough to impress the audience.

It was not the exotic nature of the spectacle that fascinated the audience. The struggles between the gods and demons of Indian religion remain strange to us, but the state of mind, the sense of time and the strongly differentiated sense of style come across to the audience nonetheless.

The highly professional music of the Kerala combo played an important part here. The constantly changing rhythms and the five-tone system immediately captured the attention. Rhythmic precision, changes of tempo and volume — whether sung or played — were performed with virtuosity.

Then the extremely subtle hand movements, the so-called mudras; the actors' mimic expressions, movements of the eyes, eyelids and mouth; the stamping, sometimes searing dance movements conveyed a broad range of human psychology — from exalted purity to fierce passion and brutality.

The costumes, headgear and superb masks, full of symbolic meaning, were splendid. Also authentic was the curtain, held in front of a flickering light by two assistants — part of the ritual preparation of the dance drama proper.

At the height of the drama this curtain is then pulled away. A feast for the eyes, though somewhat spoilt by the unbelievably banal colours and material of the academy hall. This is a constant source of irritation. Not even the magnificent opening performance of the pantomime festival could quite make us forget this annoyance. On the Saturday Milan Sladek, the Kefka theatre of Cologne and its ensemble were on the programme. Sladek was applauded rapturously when he came in and was visibly moved and astonished by the response. A quick change of costume and one sketch followed the next; "The Rejected Man," "The Death of the Civil Servant," "The Little Soldier." There was applause even before each sketch. Milan Sladek and his ensemble have no acts based on the effect of recognising certain basic human experiences. Sladek is a great poet and actor — he does not parade his

Continued on page 12



The classical Indian dance play, ... Kalamandalam company. (Photo: ...)

■ **ANTHROPOLOGY**

Too many for too few jobs in the emergent science of ethnology

Many people associate ethnology as an academic discipline and a profession with adventurous expeditions to the far-flung corners of the world.

But ethnology is far from a dream profession. The institutes of the various universities have not enough jobs to offer and today there are only 200 practising ethnologists. Yet the number of university students enrolled for this subject is ten times this figure, i.e. between 2,000 and 3,000 – and this is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

Ethnology – or cultural and social anthropology, as it is called in the English-speaking areas of the world – is rather confusing inasmuch as the discipline is still trying to find a name for itself.

And as soon as agreement is reached to settle on the term "ethnology", various associations of ideas make the picture confusing again: South Sea romanticism, civilising primitive peoples, head hunters, witchcraft and racial theories – all these prejudices trouble the image of ethnology even today in our age of mass tourism and worldwide communications.

Ethnology is a science that originated in antiquity. It started with the description of alien peoples. Later, it was primarily travellers, colonial administrators and missionaries who reported on foreign cultures and societies.

This rather amorphous mass of studies, which initially became part of history and geography, eventually crystallised into ethnology (around the middle of the last century) and was buttressed by the establishment of museums and ethnological societies.

Today, this discipline is tersely defined as "science of the cultures of peoples".

It is based on the assumption of differing human attitudes in different societies and attempts to explain the resulting differences and similarities.

Such comparison is not an end in itself. Instead, the intention is to show how relative and limited individual cultures and societies, including our own, are.

Ethnology is thus also an instrument of self recognition, aimed at removing prejudices about things alien to us and seemingly anomalous.

Traditionally, ethnology deals with non-European tribal societies, their techniques and social setups. In addition, it has lately focussed its attention on the developing countries and their dependence on the industrial world.

Ethnologists now also devote more and more attention to the problems of minorities in industrial countries. The way of life and the integration difficulties of foreign workers and gypsies are no longer off limits for ethnologists.

Unlike in former years, when ethnologists were seen as travellers to exotic places with a pronounced obsession to collect various items, they now live for prolonged periods in alien cultures – almost like immigrants.

They gather their data through field work, for it is in the field that they must familiarise themselves with the everyday life of such civilisations, with the significance of language, gestures and objects.

Observation, the collecting of objects, interviews, tests, social programmes, film and tape recordings serve to provide extensive insights into the way of life of various ethnic groups. This proves the closeness of ethnology to related sciences such as sociology, history, geography and psychology.

Universities and museums evaluate the results of this work – and this is where most of today's ethnologists are employed.

The function of museum ethnology is to convey ethnological data to the public in an easily understandable manner. They plan and organise exhibitions, buy the necessary material, look after the archives and take part in field work.

Since museums see themselves more and more as educational institutions, paedagogical elements have gained in importance in ethnology.

Audiovisual media, batik and ceramics are now used by museums to convey insights into hitherto unknown crafts and activities.

This is supplemented by discussions with visitors, while special educational toys for children serve to remove the usual threshold fear.

This part of the operation is looked after by museum specialists and their discipline now goes under the name "museum paedagogics."

But what about practical career prospects for ethnologists? They exist, of course; but vacancies have been filled for years ahead in both universities and ethnological museums.

But there are also career pro… development aid, where eth… work in an advisory capacity, h… prepare certain projects and … their effects on the population.

Though most career forecasts … speculation, it is obvious that … gists with a doctorate have an … others. It is also certain that … knowledge in other fields … foreign languages, economics … well as practical agricultural … ahead of the game.

Such training can find its … in tourism – an area in which … more ethnology students are …

There is no rigid and prescrib… ing for work in development … much is certain: ethnology … enough, for this must be … other specialised knowledge.

Generally, what matters … and imagination in attempting … job in a field where prospects … be termed bleak.

Professor Hans Fischer, … ethnologist: "More people … sume that ethnology deals wi… dress, head hunting and such … few know that the ethnologis… ies the problems of foreign … rism and differences betwe… Only once the public realises … more use be made of ethnolog…

Thirteen German univers… offer ethnology courses, which … ject to the so-called numeru… Since most institutes are … frequently having only one … one assistant and one inst… range of subjects is obviously …

There is also no uniform … But a knowledge of foreign … especially English, is a must … most literature on the subject … ten in that language.

The minimum study time … semesters, including practica… museums and, in some cas… field.

Erwin …

(Die Zeit, 26 Sep…)

Pantomime

Continued from page 10

means and his methods but makes us forget them. Whether contemplating a flower or playing Samson and Deliah or whether, as in his grotesque The Gift, his art is always a mirror held up to men and the world.

He is never crude, though he omits nothing which is part of life. He sublimates the banal and the vulgar. Congratulations are due to him and his ensemble: to Lorraine von Gehlen, Sylvia Springer-Thomas, Isidor Fernandez and Eduard Zlabek!

The first two days of the festival already indicated its range. Young, inexperienced experimental groups have been invited too. Hannelore Taschenberger, Claus van Bebber and Paul Hubweber were the artists on the bill in the first evening performance at the Kefka theatre.

However, their parallel actions turned out to be inadequate attempts to formulate a statement. Their performance had nothing to do with avant-gardism.

The trio's use of all kinds of devices, tape-recorders, sparklers, ropes and ladders only served to underline that action art and pantomime only lead anywhere when you have mastered the craft.

At the end of the performance the audience slipped away – those that were still left – without applause, without boos or bravos, as if they were embarrassed at having stayed to the end.

Helmut Scheier

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 22 September 1980)

Neanderthal Man 'is not the oldest'

The Neanderthal Man discovered in 1856 and named after a small place near Düsseldorf, is not the oldest "Rhinelander", says the city administration of Mönchengladbach.

New finds in Mönchengladbach proper, says the city council, indicate that there was a type of man several tens of thousands years older living in the south of what today is the city.

Archaeologists of the State Museum in Bonn and the Institute for Early History of Cologne University who discovered the find in a clay pit say that this type of man was the "oldest European".

The artefacts they found are at least 120,000 years old and are thus older than those relating to the Neanderthal Man who died out during the last Ice Age some 40,000 years ago.

The "oldest European" belonged to the *homo erectus* group which originated in China and Australia and are not considered direct ancestors of today's man.

They were specialised on the environment as gatherers of plants and as hunters. This, the experts say, is evidenced by the spearheads they found in Mönchengladbach.

The tools and implements found in the clay pit are of major scientific importance in reconstructing the family tree of man.

ddp

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 23 September 1980)

Autumn brings out the archaeologists again

Exit tourists, enter archaeologists. The autumn will see the beginning of major excavation work by German archaeologists all the way from Munigua (Spain) to Milet (Turkey).

Unfortunately, in Iran and Iraq the researchers' work has been thwarted by current events.

The fact that archaeologists usually begin their work in September is not so much due to diminishing tourism as to the more gentle climate of the autumn.

The most important German dig on Greek soil is still Samos. Research work into the temple of Hera, the wife of Zeus, has been in progress for the past 100 years.

Recently, the Germans bought a new site to search for the "holy road" which once linked the city with the temple.

But after only a few days the archaeologists, headed by Professor Kyrieleis, found the torso of a giant *kouros* of which a leg had been found some years ago. The torso is 5.5 metres high and is thus one of the largest antique statues to have been found.

While the work in Epirus in north-west Greece, with its research into the settlement history of the region, ended last year, the work in Olympia has just begun. The archaeologists are now concentrating on the baths of Olympia in an effort to establish their significance in everyday life.

In Italy, where the German … logical Institute originated, G… chaeologists are working under … the moment, exploring the … under St. Peter's.

Together with their Italian … another team is now trying to … Greek settlement in southern … have just come up with an Ion… le – an archaeological sensation … no such temple had previo… found in Italy.

The city hall of Metapont, … Ionian temple was found, is of … interest due to its stage-like … where spectators on all four … ed politics in the making.

Turkey has for years been … most productive areas. In … team under Müller-Wiener … Byzantine mosaic in the recen… vered bishop's palace. The … beauty is comparable to that of …

Not far from Milet there is … Apollo shrine of Didyma, one … largest Greek temples. It was … long with columns 20 metres …

Here, too, the archaeologists … to unearth a road leading to the …

Their finds so far confirm … ing exists that hasn't existed … it a sausage stand or a souvenir …

M. v. Sch…

(Die Welt, 25 Sept…)

MODERN LIVING

Discrimination against women remains, says report to Bundestag

When a legal position became vacant in a district administration office in North Rhine-Westphalia some 100 people applied. The appointment committee made it easy for itself. To arrive at a short list it first eliminated women, regardless of qualification.

The incident occurred at the very moment when in nearby Bonn a Bundestag inquiry Commission was dealing with the subject "Women and Society".

The Commission presented its closing report to the Speaker of the Bundestag last month and immediately afterwards to the public.

Although the above incident was the *only concrete case mentioned, there can* be little doubt that it is indicative of the continued widespread discrimination *against women in this country.*

"It will take several years before all discriminatory practices against women *have been eliminated and before equal*ity of opportunity and partnership between the sexes become reality," states *the report.*

The Commission has put forward more than 100 individual recommenda*tions – enough for the next two legisla*tive periods of the Bundestag.

All recommendations are based on the *fundamental realisation that the old role* structures of the sexes are rigid and hard to overcome.

Although close to ten million women hold jobs in this country, the general view is still that the man should earn the living and the woman look after the home.

Polls show that in families where *both hold a job only 16 per* cent of men help with the housework. On the other hand, 72 per cent of working women have to look after the home after work.

Small wonder, then, that two out of three working women complain about the problems of reconciling the two tasks.

"Many men do not help with the upbringing of the children and the housework to the extent that would be in keeping with a partnership-based family life," says the report.

The diminishing working hours of heads of households have brought little change in this respect. Husbands are as reluctant to help with the housework as they were when work in the office and the factory finished an hour later.

The report essentially tries to promote a *new relationship between the sexes.*

One passage reads: "Those who put children in the world take on responsi*bilities . . . responsibilities to be* shared between men and women. It must become a positive task to shoulder family responsibilities."

The envisaged changes are primarily to help those women who want to be both mothers and earners and who are usually overtaxed by this dual burden.

But even if it were possible to make our society aware of the equality of the two functions there would still be many obstacles to new forms of partnership.

The Commission has therefore presented the lawmakers with a number of suggestions with which to relieve the dual burden of working mothers.

These include: more part-time work, better opportunities for re-integration into a working life for men and women, more day-boarding schools and promotion of neighbourhood help.

Depending on party affiliation, the Commission members disagreed on individual issues. These ranged from the closing hours for shops which some members wanted to see changed to facilitate after-work shopping all the way to shorter working hours.

The Commission was, however, agreed on "motherhood vacations". It suggested that these be extended to become "parent vacations", that would enable a couple to decide which parent is to take the first year after the birth of a child off work with a job guarantee at the end of that period.

Rudolf Grosskopff

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 24 September 1980)

City guide in Vietnamese

The first city guide in Vie[tnamese] and German has been pu[blished] jointly by the German Red Cr[oss and] the Vietnamese Society in Aachen.

It provides information on transport, city institutions, sigh[ts,] the various authorities and charit[able or]ganisations.

Forms relating to family reunit[ing] have also been translated.

Moreover, the Red Cross o[ffers] weekly counselling services which [are at]tended by Vietnamese social w[orkers] who also act as interpreters.

Aachen and environs now hous[e] 500 Vietnamese refuges, some o[f whom] have been assigned apartments o[f their] own.

Church collections have yielde[d] DM2m in donations, of which [...] cent will be used for the mainten[ance of] refugee homes and additional fac[ilities].

Current expenditures for the [...] and integration assistance [...] DM500,000.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine [Zeitung] für Deutschland, 18 Septemb[er 1980])

Peter, a case of not being Mary

Time and again people who want to give their children unusual names *are turned down by the registrar of* births. There are those who want to call their daughter Pillula, Europa or Jaswant Kaur *or their son Winnetou, Pepsi Cola,* Timpe or even Grammophon.

But more and more parents adamantly *insist* on the chosen name and are prepared to fight it out in court.

All these court actions have helped clarify the position to some extent.

So much is clear now: as a matter of principle, parents are at liberty to choose *their child's name but they must do so* "within the framework of general custom and the prevailing social order."

A major criterion is that the name must clearly indicate the sex of the child. So it is not allowed to call a boy Claudia or a girl Oliver.

Andrea – a common male name in Italy – is impermissible for a boy in Germany because the same name is a favourite for girls.

Maria is an exception and can be given to a boy provided it is supplemented by a second name of plainly male character.

Other exceptions are certain North German names like Helge, Inger or Gerrit which can be either male or female.

Things become particularly tricky when parents pick foreign names that are generally unknown in this country, such as Münnever, Chandra Gupta or Jawant Kaur, which are Turkish or Indian and which German registrars inevitably reject.

But the Federal Court has ruled against the registrars and called for a more liberal handling of such names.

Names that are customary abroad may be given a German child even if they are unknown in this country.

Should they be of a nature that makes it impossible to determine the sex of the child, an additional unam[biguous] name must be given.

Thus the name Aranya Marko i[s ac]ceptable for a boy. Aranya is a co[mmon fe]male name abroad and the sex o[f the] *child is made obvious in this* ca[se by] the additional name Marko.

Münnever Erika thus becomes [...] acceptable as Jaswant Kaur Elisab[eth].

A Hamburg court recently wen[t] a step further: people in that cit[y can] now give their child not onl[y names] that are customary abroad bu[t also] names that have sprung from thei[r] imagination such as Tinte.

The limits of parental rights ar[e dic]tated by the personality rights o[f the] child. Stupid or grotesque names [that] would eventually embarrass the c[hild] and expose it to ridicule remain [inad]missible. Thus names like Gr[ammo]phon, Pepsi Cola or Pillula are out.

The borderline between tasteless [(and] therefore inadmissible) and do[ubtful] (and only just admissible) name[s is] somewhat unclear. Here, the pers[onal] view of the registrar and, ultimatel[y, the] judge is the deciding factor.

It is therefore impssible to pr[edict] whether names like Energia, T[...] and Elektron, which occur in the So[viet] Union, may be entered in the regis[ter or] not.

It is equally chancy whether [names] like *Rasputin, Pan, Che* or Na[...] will be tolerated or not.

Another question under dispute is [the] number of names that might be gi[ven] a child. Some registrars are oppo[sed to] the long chain of names cust[omary] among the aristocracy just as they [op]posed the attempt of a soccer f[an to] give his son all 11 names of his f[avou]rite team.

At the moment, the magic [number] seems to be seven. A Hambur[g ...] considers seven excessive and says [...] five should be the maximum. A B[...] court, on the other hand, has said [...] there is no logic in admitting five [and] refusing seven.

As a result, Berlin registrars ar[e] happy to accept seven or more. [...] The same applies to most other [regis]trars.

Eva Marie von M[...]

(Die Zeit, 19 Septemb[er 1980])

Accusation of wasted public money 'off target'

The Mayor of two municipalities in Hesse has hit back at accusations of wasting taxpayers money.

The dispute arose over a connection between the combined municipalities of Dietzhölztal and Steinbrücken, and Japan.

A taxpayers watchdog organisation which specialises in exposing government wastage, *Bund der Steuerzahler,* accused the combined municipalities of what it called "Ishibashi excesses in Japan."

But the mayor, Heinz Hoffmann, denies that public money has been involved.

Ishibashi is the name of an 88-year-old Tokyo paediatrician who has been awarded Germany's highest decoration for foreigners.

Dr Choei Ishibashi visited Germany in 1962 when he pointed out that Steinbrücken, himself and a town some 120 kilometres north of Tokyo, all had the same name: Ishibashi, which is the equivalent of the German word Steinbrücken (Stonebridge).

This identity of names led to a close friendship between the Japanese paediatrician (who studied medicine in Germany before the war) and the two towns.

*In the course of the years, this fried*ship has been intensified by annual visits of the professor to Dietzhölztal-*Steinbrücken.*

Mayor Heinz Hoffmann says: "You cannot reduce such friendship to deutschmarks and yen."

He stressed that this was particularly so since the municipality – and hence the taxpayer – has not paid a penny to cultivate this friendship.

All visits to Japan by people from Dietzhölztal have been paid for out of their own pockets. In fact, the Japanese gave each member of a visiting delegation an allowance of DM1,000.

"And as for Dr Ishibashi, he also pays for his trips to Dietzhölztal out of his own pocket every time he comes to Germany as head of a Japanese delegation to take part in one congress or another. The last time he was here was on the 28th of August."

Herr Hoffmann is particularly irked because the organisation did not take *the trouble to find out how the friend*ship functions.

The partnership between the town in *Japan and its German counterpart* started eight years ago when Mayor Hoffmann (travelling at his own expense) paid his first visit to the Japanese town of Ishibashi.

In 1975, when a Dietzhölztal delegation went to Japan to sign the twinning deal, each member of the delegation paid his own way.

Herbert Schulze-Andree/dpa

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 22 September 1980)

SPORT

Max Schmeling, 75, maintains universal popularity

Max Schmeling, the ever-popular pre-war *professional* heavyweight boxing world champion, was 75 on 28 September.

He chose *to avoid well-wishers on the* day, just as he has for other birthdays, but he cannot have failed to sense the wave of popularity *he still commands.*

He holds an almost unique position in sport's hall of fame in being one of the few sportsmen who *to this day in* Germany are still automatically addressed on first-name terms.

It is a distinction Max shares only with another sporting phenomenon, soccer star Uwe Seeler. "There are times," he says, "when I feel like a walking monument."

He retains popularity with each succeeding generation, even with people who cannot possibly have personal recollections of his career in the ring, let alone his world title bouts.

"Why me?" he has wondered time and again. "How odd that I have not been forgotten." He has a tentative answer at the ready:

"The heavyweight world champion, boxing's champion of all the classes, may still be the contemporary embodiment of the myth.

"The names of other famous athletes are forgotten as time goes by, but not *those of heavyweight champs* such as Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney, Joe Louis or Rocky Marciano.

"The live on in the *collective memory* like Hercules, immortalised by legendary statues."

True enough, yet in Schmeling's case there is a certain something else too. A geniality that seems to have been brought into his features.

Boxing News, the British magazine, once noted by way of a birthday tribute that he had made friends with all his erstwhile enemies. He treats even complete strangers as friends.

Is that what it is? Maybe. But maybe it *is also his private life story,* about which most people imagine and suspect more than they know for a fact.

All the general public know is that his marriage with former film star Anny Ondra has been an unblemished success, or so it would seem since there have never been rumours about it.

And, of course, his first, legendary fight – the one he won – with Joe Louis. But who did he beat to win his world crown? Fewer people can answer that one.

It was in fact Jack Sharkey, who was *disqualified for a blow below the belt.* "I can't take the title," Schmeling promptly said. "After this fight it's worthless as *far as I am concerned.*"

He had to be persuaded to accept the world crown, but this anecdote is typical of Max, an honest man with *no illusions* about himself and as straight as a die.

This quality is something people must have sensed then as now. He went on to prove to himself and others that he was the world champion by right too, defending his title against William Young Stribling of the United States.

He lost the return bout with Sharkey, albeit unfairly so, as almost all eye-witnesses felt. But this upset Schmeling *less than if he had lost fairly and squa*rely.

Later, in a non-title fight, he certainly beat *Joe Louis.*

He is a man everyone admired. Yet to this day he is still at a loss to understand why he has come *in* for such admiration, more so than any other German sportsman.

What is more, he is as popular in the White House as he is in, say, Berlin. He may shun publicity on his birthday but he is not a man to close his eyes to the present.

He asks well-wishers to make a donation to others rather than congratulate him: "I would be delighted if instead a donation were remitted to the Frankfurt bank account of the Sports Aid Foundation. I would then at least be able to repay in part the debt I owe to sport, and I owe it virtually everything I have achieved in life." But worldwide respect can neither be expressed in figures *nor* remitted in cash. Max Schmeling will just have to accept it.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 27 September 1980)

Schmeling on a less happy day: in the process of being knocked out in the first round by Joe Louis in their championship bout in New York in June 1938. (Photo: dpa)

Sprint star bows out with a third place

Dortmund sprint star Annegret Richter ended a superb track *career in* the Far East, but not as the gold medallist she was in the relay at Munich or *the 100 metres at Montreal.*

In Peking, where 55,000 Chinese spectators paid 15 to 20 pfennigs and packed the stadium *to watch the first day of* an international athletics event, she came a mere third in 11.59 seconds in the last 100 *metres of her career.*

"I should have liked to win," she said, "but after the setbacks I suffered last year there was no way I was *going to do* so, especially as Heather Hunt (of Britain) ran it 11.2 seconds," a quick time.

In the relay she laid the groundwork *for another third place* that Christina Sussiek, the No. 4, held on the despite a strained thigh.

At the national championships Christina, 20, from Leverkusen ran the 100 metres in the same time as Annegret, a *former world record-holder,* but was judged the loser.

So revenge must have been sweet in *Peking, especially as she cleared 6.59* metres in the long jump.

"Yet I have spent the past few days *doing nothing* but sightseeing *in* Peking," she said. "The tough winter training must have made the difference."

"The best ground I have ever seen," reckoned hammer thrower Karl-Hans Riehm, who has been unbeaten so far *this season. "Had I been in top form I* could have set a world record."

But he won just the same, his 76.52-metre winning throw taking him well ahead of student world champion Klaus Ploghaus from Darmstadt (74.30 metres).

Bavarian sprint specialist Christian Haas from Fürth also came second in 11.41 seconds. Harvey Glance of the United States breaking won in 10.27 seconds.

The crowd were delighted by the performance of their triple-jumper Zou Zhenxian, who outjumped world-ranking specialists with a winning jump of 16.80 metres.

Klaus Kübler from Stuttgart came only fourth with 15.96 metres.

So did Cologne high-jumper Carlo Thränhardt (2.22 metres) and Leverkusen *javelin girl Ingrid Thyssen (58.10* metres).

Discus specialist Rolf Danneberg from Hamburg came third with a throw of 59.68 metres, while decathlon world record-holder Guido Kratschmer came a mere eighth in 14.64 seconds against powerful opposition in the 100 metres hurdles.

Gerd Holzbach

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 27 September 1980)

Footballer off to US for a record fee

Weeks of suspense came to an end on 28 September when New York Cosmos and 1 FC Cologne agreed to terms – a *German record transfer fee* of DM3.5m – for 20-year-old soccer star Bernd Schuster.

Franz Beckenbauer, 35, whose place he may well be taking in New York, is returning to play for SV Hamburg in the German *Bundesliga.*

Schuster is set to earn about DM600,000 a year, in return for which he may not be required to *deliver* the goods in terms of soccer technique but he can certainly reckon on entering a land of association football *Disneyland.*

The losers in the deal will be West German national team manager Jupp Derwall and, of course, his international team-mates.

As soon as Cosmos and the US Football Association agree to release Schuster for international duties there will be no reason why he should not play for Cosmos against Standard Liége on their European tour.

Beckenbauer and Schuster will then play alongside each other for Cosmos. Only weeks ago the very idea would have been dismissed as utopian; now it is reality.

But international duties are likely to remain theory rather than practice for a while. Manager Derwall said: "Schuster's decision *to sign for Cosmos is a private* decision on which I have no influence."

Derwall phoned Cosmos' manager Hennes Weisweiler the evening terms were agreed. "I am sorry such an important player for the team is leaving the *country,"* he commented.

"We are naturally keen to ensure that he will be available for the 1982 World *Cup tournament.* But will he still be in line for selection? Not necessarily, to judge by the game's standards in the United States."

Schuster too sees little likelihood of improving on his 10 appearances for Germany:

"I should love to play for my country again but I am bound to accept Herr Derwall's decision if he decides against selecting me.

"It would be magnificent to take part in the *pre-World Cup* competition in Uruguay over Christmas, for that matter, but I will then have been out of the game for a month."

Once he has completed his stint with Cosmos during their European tour he will be put through a special training schedule arranged by Weisweiler and not, as initially considered, train with a Bundesliga team during the US close season.

His bags are packed. Once formalities are dealt with he will be straight off to join his new club on tour while his wife Gaby arranged the removal: "I do hope Frau Weisweiler will help me to find an apartment in New York," she says.

Schuster's national team-mates have certain misgivings about his decision to join Cosmos. Take team captain Karl-Heinz Rummenigge of Bayern Munich, for instance.

"Bernd is an immensely talented lad," he says, "but in sporting terms he is on the wrong track."

It remains to be seen whether Cologne will have solved all their problems by selling Schuster. Part of the proceeds may well go towards severance pay for team manager Karl-Heinz Heddergott.

The man most likely to succeed him is reckoned to be Dutchman Rinus Michels.

Bernd Linnhoff

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 30 September 1980)